

House File 424 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 424
BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 135)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the creation of a green alert program for
2 missing veterans-at-risk.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 694.1, subsection 1, Code 2019, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *e.* Is a veteran-at-risk.

4 Sec. 2. Section 694.1, Code 2019, is amended by adding the
5 following new subsection:

6 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. "*Veteran-at-risk*" means a veteran as
7 defined in section 35.1 or an active duty member of the armed
8 forces of the United States, a member of a reserve component
9 thereof, or a member of the national guard who, based on the
10 information provided by a person filing a complaint pursuant to
11 section 694.2, is a veteran or member with a physical or mental
12 health condition related to the military service of the veteran
13 or member.

14 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 694.5A Green alert program for missing
15 veterans-at-risk.

16 1. For purposes of this section:

17 *a.* "*Department*" means the department of homeland security
18 and emergency management.

19 *b.* "*Green alert*" means a public alert program for missing
20 veterans-at-risk.

21 2. The department shall establish a green alert to require
22 a law enforcement agency that receives a report of a missing
23 person involving a veteran-at-risk to submit a request for a
24 public alert to the department as soon as practicable. The
25 department shall implement rules, policies, and procedures for
26 initiating and utilizing the mass notification and emergency
27 messaging system, as described in section 29C.17A, when a
28 request for a green alert is approved.

29 3. The department shall develop the criteria to be used
30 in determining whether a green alert shall be issued. The
31 department shall develop the criteria in collaboration with
32 the department of veterans affairs, the commission of veterans
33 affairs, the United States department of veterans affairs, the
34 department of human services, the department of public safety,
35 and the Iowa association of broadcasters. The criteria shall

1 include but not be limited to the following:

2 a. A report of a missing veteran-at-risk may be provided
3 to a law enforcement agency within seventy-two hours of the
4 veteran-at-risk's disappearance.

5 b. There is reason to believe the veteran-at-risk may
6 be missing as a consequence of a physical or mental health
7 condition related to the veteran-at-risk's military service.

8 c. There is sufficient information available to disseminate
9 a green alert to the public that could assist in locating the
10 missing veteran-at-risk.

11 4. The department shall develop and disseminate to Iowa law
12 enforcement agencies a form to be used in submitting a request
13 to the department for a green alert.

14 5. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
15 consistent with the purposes of this section.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill relates to the creation of a green alert program
20 for missing veterans-at-risk.

21 The bill adds "veteran-at-risk" to the definition of a
22 "missing person" under Code section 694.1. A "veteran-at-risk"
23 is defined as a veteran or an active duty member of the armed
24 forces of the United States, a member of a reserve component
25 thereof, or a member of the national guard who, based on the
26 information provided by a person filing a complaint pursuant
27 to Code section 694.2, is a veteran or member with a physical
28 or mental health condition related to the military service of
29 the veteran or member. Under Code sections 694.2 and 694.3,
30 a person may file a complaint of a missing person with a law
31 enforcement agency and the law enforcement agency is required
32 to prepare, as soon as practicable, a report on the missing
33 person. Upon completion of the report, the law enforcement
34 agency must disseminate the report to other law enforcement
35 agencies pursuant to Code section 694.4.

1 The bill directs the department of homeland security and
2 emergency management to establish a green alert, which is
3 defined in the bill as a public alert program for missing
4 veterans-at-risk, requiring a law enforcement agency
5 that receives a report of a missing person involving a
6 veteran-at-risk to submit a request for a public alert to
7 the department of homeland security and emergency management
8 as soon as practicable. The department of homeland security
9 and emergency management shall implement rules, policies, and
10 procedures for initiating and utilizing the mass notification
11 and emergency messaging system, as described in Code section
12 29C.17A, when a request for a green alert is approved.

13 The bill requires the department of homeland security
14 and emergency management to develop the criteria to be used
15 in determining whether a green alert shall be issued. The
16 criteria shall include but not be limited to the following:
17 (1) whether a report of a missing veteran-at-risk is
18 provided to a law enforcement agency within 72 hours of
19 the veteran-at-risk's disappearance; (2) there is reason to
20 believe the veteran-at-risk may be missing as a consequence
21 of a physical or mental health condition that is related
22 to the veteran-at-risk's military service; and (3) there
23 is sufficient information available to disseminate a green
24 alert to the public that could assist in locating the missing
25 veteran-at-risk.

26 The bill requires the department of homeland security
27 and emergency management to develop and disseminate to law
28 enforcement agencies a form to be used in submitting a request
29 for a green alert, and requires the department of homeland
30 security and emergency management to adopt rules consistent
31 with the provisions of the bill.